



# ASK MONTY

May 8, 2013

## Greetings!

Do you think teaching a horse to lie down is a form of horse gentling or submission? Find out in Monty's Question and Answer Column this week!



## IN THIS ISSUE

[Question and Answer](#)

[Equus Online Uni](#)

[Where Is Monty?](#)

[Featured Video](#)

[Inspiration](#)

[Spread the Word](#)

[Win a Ride with Monty!](#)

[Be a Leader](#)

[Monty's Challenge](#)

## Monty's Principles

### Nobody Deserves Cruelty

Dear Monty!  
Having dinner with you and Pat and watching you interact with horses would be a dream come true.

When I read [The Man Who Listens to Horses](#), a whole new world opened for me. I am 65 years old and read your book 5 years ago... several time.

Loved horses and was terrified of them ... I misunderstood them. ;-(.  
Then I did Soul Journey with Horses with Joan Schoenhals at Birch Glen Stables, a new world opened for me. That's where I met firey Dakota, a grey Appaloosa who was running all over the arena like a wild horse. He ran straight up to me and was instantly sensitive to my grieving heart.  
Since then, when I can, I have stayed at Birch Glen several times. What joy!

Thank you, Monty, for **opening my soul to the world of horses.**

This was a gift of a lifetime.  
Maybe I will have the money to

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

### Question:

I am a student on your [Equus Online Uni](#) (and a very grateful one at that!) that greatly respects your opinion and has been helped immensely by your teaching and testimony. I am gathering tidbits and tips on natural horsemanship from a number of places, including hand-me-down magazines and American Indian history. However, you have probably been my greatest influence in the art of horsemanship, which is why I hope you'll find time to answer my question.

I have found **the practice of laying down a horse as a form of "gentling"** in both modern horse magazines and Native American history. I have seen it done (though not in-person) in a

seemingly acceptable and successful manner...but also in a (in my soft-hearted opinion) violent and simply wrong manner. Does it depend on the horse and person, or do you think this method is completely right or wrong? It just seems to go completely against the language of Equus, but I am just learning and trust your experienced judgment better than my own, although my instincts tell me forcing a prey animal down like that would terrify it more than train it.

Thank you so much for your time and teaching!

### Monty's Answer:

It's my opinion that eventually the horse will lie down in a relaxed and accepting state of mind. Early male humans made drawings on the caves which would indicate that their females would eventually exhibit that same behavior. No matter how you describe the outcome or explain the method it is **the creation of submission that one accomplishes with this act**. There are many horsemen who still employ this procedure, mostly in private.

The Horse Whisperer movie would clearly exhibit the **behavior shaping** that you are describing in this question. If you have the chance to see it again, however, **notice the terror in the eyes of the horse in the early stages of tying his front foot to the saddle** while educating him to lie down. My father was a horse trainer that felt that no horse was properly trained until it was taught to lie down and to be completely submissive to the human in every way.

Prehistoric man would probably indicate that it kept his wives in the caves and completely loyal to him. He probably would not care whether that obedience and loyalty was expressed because of respect or love. The fact is they behaved and that was his ultimate goal. I have come to learn that horses will respond very much like female humans. It's just that they act much more effectively with us if **they do it because they want to and not out of fear**.

Laying a horse down with any method whatsoever is not a part of my conceptual menu. Everything I do with a horse is based in an attempt to **cause the horse to want to do it**. This does not mean that someday a horseman will present a method free of demand and violence, which results in laying a horse down and then improves performance. If I am still alive when that happens, I will take a hard look at adding it to my lexicon.

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

someday come to your farm and meet you.

It would be such an honor ... truly. Bless you for showing people how to live in fellowship with this beautiful species and to eliminate the cruelty that would have been perpetuated on them.

You are a gift to us all! And thank you for sharing your life's story with me through The Man Who Listens to Horses. You deserved only beauty, not cruelty, and look at the life you built for yourself!

Sandra Nordgren

## Winning Prize: Ride With Monty

Here is an exceptional opportunity for those of you in the USA! By becoming a member of ACTHA you have a chance to **win an all-expense paid trip, airfare included, to Monty's farm** and the opportunity to saddle up with Monty. Winners will be whisked away to California and will be treated to an equine experience they will never forget! Register with ACTHA to enter this incredible prize drawing: [www.actha.us/register](http://www.actha.us/register)



Download the flyer here: <http://www.montyrobarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/saddle-up-with-Monty.pdf>

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

## THIS WEEK IN MONTY'S EQUUS ONLINE UNI



This week, Monty and Steffen Peters exchange ideas on how to create a true partnership through harmony between horse and rider.

Current students log in here: [www.montyrobartsuniversity.com](http://www.montyrobartsuniversity.com)

Not a student yet? Click on: <http://montyrobartsuniversity.com/sessions/new>

The 250th Lesson on Monty's Equus Online University, MINDFUL DRESSAGE with STEFFEN PETERS. True Partnership Through Harmony Premieres May 15, 2013

## BE A LEADER

"A round pen provides an appropriate place for

learning to occur as it allows the trainer to offer

Join-Up Now!

Or go to [www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/about-the-uni](http://www.montyrobertsuniversity.com/about-the-uni)

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS MONTY?



**May 18, 2013: A Night of Inspiration with Monty** at Flag Is Up Farms in Solvang California. Open to the public with limited space. More info at [http://www.montyroberts.com/ab\\_about\\_monty\\_calendar/night-of-inspiration/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/night-of-inspiration/). Contact [admin@montyroberts.com](mailto:admin@montyroberts.com) or +1 805 688 6288 between 9 am and 5 pm Pacific Standard Time. **SOLD OUT! Now booking for Saturday September 21, 2013**

**August 5-9, 2013: Monty's Special Training.** Read clinic description at <http://www.join-up.org/education/>. Contact [info@join-up.org](mailto:info@join-up.org)

or call 805-688-3483.

**Monty in Australia this summer:** Tickets on sale soon!

**Monty in Brazil in July:** More details soon!

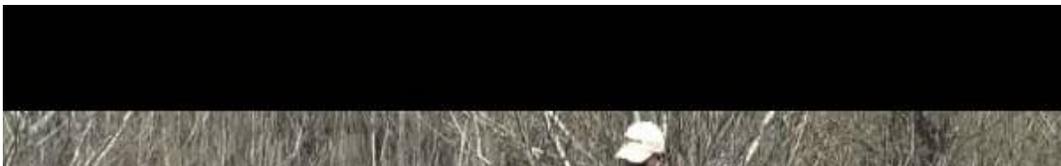
### Coming Soon: New Summer Dates to See Monty!

Inspired Retreats with Monty! Write to [askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:askmonty@montyroberts.com) [Click here](#) to read more: [http://www.montyroberts.com/ab\\_about\\_monty\\_calendar/inspired-retreats-professional-development-training/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/inspired-retreats-professional-development-training/)

For information about Monty's worldwide demos and the courses held at Monty's farm in California go to: [http://www.montyroberts.com/ab\\_about\\_monty\\_calendar/see-monty/](http://www.montyroberts.com/ab_about_monty_calendar/see-monty/)

## YOUTUBE FEATURE!

More Willing Partners™ FUN with Horses... watch the video!



confrontation."

~ Monty Roberts

Please share your thoughts on leadership by emailing us: [askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:askmonty@montyroberts.com)

## Monty on HRTV



Watch Monty on HRTV Tuesdays at 6:00 PM ET.

**Special Offer** for Monty Roberts' Fans! **First month FREE** of HRTV.com when you subscribe now! Just use the **promo code MR13** when you sign up!



Please check local TV directories for your time and channel or the HRTV website where times are in Eastern Standard Time:

<http://www.hrtv.com/MontyRobertsShow/>

## Horse & Country in the UK



Watch Monty Roberts on Horse & Country TV (Sky channel 280) in the UK and Ireland. See:

<http://www.horseandcountry.tv/monty>

for more info.

## Monty's Challenge

I've been reading into your techniques this evening, trying to find an answer on how to connect with a mare I just started riding. But the horses on the films are much "wilder than she is". My problem is not an untamed horse, rather a calm, but introvert little woman.

History: She's a dressage horse, about 14 years. She has not been ridden since spring, due to a "short staff" this last year, but she is actually a very good dressage horse, bred and trained by an acknowledge dressage rider. She is used to be around horses, dogs and people, but went for many years without "her own person".



Monty Roberts Willing Partners geldings for sale

## FEEDING THE PREDATORS!

She is quiet, does not do any "nasty" tricks, does whatever you want her to do in the stall (cleaning hooves she almost gives me the hoof) - perfect in that sense, really.

What I am contacting you for, is that she's very hard to make contact with, in a personal way. Maybe she's introvert, and will always stay this way, but I think it's sad.

I've only had her for a week now, but I've never met a horse who I really feel don't care about the company I can offer. She seems neither happy or annoyed with me.

Today I stood outside her stall to give her a treat, she wanted it and really stretched her neck after it, but didn't bother to take a step forward to take the treat from my hand. I thought that was a bit weird.

What I do and what I think I do wrong - but don't know how wrong/relevant or how to avoid or solve...

1. The horses are brought in to the stables after paddock in afternoon - all horses at once (we open the gates from the paddock and they trot into their own boxes, receiving hay when they arrive). I groom her almost immediately after she's entered her box.

- What I think might be wrong: this might be annoying - and she'd like to eat some hay in piece before I annoy her. (But as I finish work and arrive at the stables at this time, and need to get home to my family before late evening, I don't know if I can change this routine...)

2. I groom her for at least 30 min, talk calmly to her, let her remove her head if she wants when grooming her head.

- What I think might be wrong: I've learned that head grooming should be postponed for as long as possible - but I feel I need to groom it before taking the bridle on. Then again, onwards to next question - which may lead me into even waiting with having to put on the bridle:

3. I started riding her the first day I met her (...) but I am calm and quiet with her here too, and give her sensitive cues. Not training at all yet, just riding at the fields, only walking (sometimes she starts trotting a bit in a quiet dressage way).

- what I think might be wrong: I should have connected with her in the stable first for some days, maybe more?

In general I've tried to give her space, not just rushing into her life and

demanding things. I've been quiet with her. Give her some treats now and then.

But I am starting to think that this introvert little, perfect woman, needs more than just riding and time to like her rider.





# WHO IS THINKING ABOUT FOOD?

I would love to get some tips on how to continue with her. Eventually I would love to ride dressage and some show jumping with her - I've seen videos of what she can do, and it's amazing - but if she's not happy with our team, I won't be either... Kind regards, Runa

## Photo Credits

- Christopher Dydyk
- Giulia Orth
- Dan Quinajon

With a new puppy on Flag Is Up Farms and the most recent rash of pet food recalls, we've been looking into what we are feeding our dogs. Here is an interesting concept we found that makes a lot of sense: <http://www.dogfoodanalysis.com/how-often-should-i-change-foods.html>

## CATCH THE COPY EDIT



A NEW edition of [From My Hands to Yours](#) is coming in 2013! We're adding new sections for an Edition 3. Would you help us correct any errors or typos you may have caught in Edition 2 please. Write your details to [debbie@montyroberts.com](mailto:debbie@montyroberts.com) (Mistakes are opportunities to learn. - Monty Roberts)

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Let us know what you are looking for in content from these emails. Send your comments and requests to [askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:askmonty@montyroberts.com).

Never miss an e-mail from Monty: To ensure you receive this email in the future, add [askmonty@montyroberts.com](mailto:askmonty@montyroberts.com) to your list of approved senders or select the Add/Save to Address Book function in your email browser and follow the appropriate instructions.



Sincerely,  
**Monty Roberts**

